The strict implementation of the hank yam packing notification and the Mill Gate Price Scheme has ensured adequate availability of yam to the hand loom weavers, and the satisfactory availability position has helped to maintain the price stability.

Credit is a requirement, apart from central/state assistance, in respect of certain schemes, such as, the Project Package Scheme (PPS), Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme and Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY). In order to enable the beneficiaries to meet this requirement, credit limits are sanctioned through State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and refinance facilities are provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The PPS is now not in vogue while the other two schemes are in operation. To meet the working capital requirements of the Weavers' Cooperative Societies and State Handloom Development Corporation (SHDCs), for production procurement and marketing activities as well as the purchase and sale of yam, NABARD provides refinance facilties through SCBs DCCBs and Commercial Banks at concessional rates of Interest. In addition, the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation, National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation also provide working capital loans to the weavers of identified communities.

There is no reported difficulty in getting loans from the Banks in cases of proposals which are in conformity with the prescribed requirements.

As far as marketing is concerned, No reports have been received from the State Governments on non-availability of marketing network.

Steering Group on fiscal policies of textile sector

741. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: SHRI NANADESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Steering Group on fiscal policies concerning the textile sector and export capabilities of domestic textile mills has since been received;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations;

(c) the decisions of Government thereon; and

(d) by when, these decisions would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIV. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (d)The Steering Group on Investment and Growth in Textile Industry has submitted an interim report, which relates to the terms of reference of the Group regarding the evolution of a growth oriented fiscal policy for integrated development of the textile industry covering all its segments. The recommendations/suggestions of the Steering Group have been taken into consideration in making proposals for consideration of the Ministry of Finance for the budget of 2002-2003.

Export of readymade garments

742. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export of readymade garments during this financial year both in value and quantity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this sector is facing problems due to negligible export incentives;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the situation and encourage the exporters by giving better benefits on exports; and

(d) by when this will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) As per latest available DGCI&S data, the exports of readymade garments during the period April-October 2001-2002 amounted to US$ 2764.5 million. The DGCI&S data regarding readymade garment exports in quantity terms for the above period is not available.

(b) to (d) Various facilities such as duty drawback, concessional rate of duty for import of machineries under EPCG Scheme, allowing import of restricted items under the Advance Licence Scheme of the Export-Import Policy, duty free import of essential items of trimmings & embellishments like fastners, polywadding, labels, tags, buttons, hangers, stickers, polybags and lining and interlining materials, full / partial exemption under 80 HHC of Income Tax have been allowed.